

3

2. The tool of claim 1 wherein said legs are spaced from each other by about 90° angles in the same plane.

3. The tool of claim 2 wherein there are three said legs, and they are about 6 mm, about 8 mm and about 10 mm in diameter.

4. The tool of claim 1 wherein said tool is made of silicone material.

5. A tracheotomy stoma measuring gauge for measuring a tracheotomy stoma for proper fitting of a tracheotomy tube comprising

an integral member having a shaft portion,

said shaft portion having a straight portion and a single bent end for engaging the inside surface of a tracheal passage, said straight portion and said bent end having substantially the same diameter, said straight portion and said bent end meeting at a point and forming an angle with each other, said straight portion and said bent end being integral and fixed with respect to each other, said straight portion of said shaft having length indicia along its length indicating the distance to the bent end, and

a ring having means to releasably engage said shaft at various positions along said shaft so as to indicate a particular said length indicia when pushed up against the patient's skin when said bent end engages the inside surface of said tracheal passage.

6. The tool of claim 5 wherein the shaft has circumferential protuberances along its length to engage said ring.

7. The tool of claim 6 wherein said shaft is less than about 5 mm in diameter.

8. The tool of claim 7 wherein said bent end is bent at about a 135° angle with said shaft.

9. A tracheotomy stoma measuring gauge for measuring a tracheotomy stoma for proper fitting of a tracheotomy tube having a circular section and an outer diameter comprising

an integral member having a plurality of legs that extend from it, each said leg having a free end and

4

a base end secured to other legs, each said leg being sufficiently long to extend from the outside of a patient's skin to inside the patient's tracheal passage, each said leg being spaced from other legs by at least about 90° or more so as to not interfere with insertion into said tracheotomy stoma, each said leg having a length, each said leg being generally cylindrical over most of its length and having a diameter that corresponds to said tracheotomy tube outer diameter and is different than the diameters of other legs,

said integral member also having a shaft portion,

said shaft portion having a bent end for engaging the inside surface of the tracheal passage, said shaft having length indicia along its length indicating the distance to the bent end, and

a ring having means to releasably engage said shaft at various positions along said shaft, so as to indicate a particular said length indicia when pushed up against the patient's skin when said bent end engages the inside surface of a tracheal passage.

10. The tool of claim 9 wherein said legs are spaced from each other by about 90° angles in the same plane and are between about 6 mm and 12 mm in diameter.

11. The tool of claim 10 wherein there are three said legs, and they are about 6 mm, about 8 mm and about 10 mm in diameter.

12. The tool of claim 11 wherein said legs are between 30 mm and 60 mm long.

13. The tool of claim 12 wherein the shaft has circumferential protuberances along its length to engage said ring.

14. The tool of claim 13 wherein said shaft is less than about 5 mm in diameter.

15. The tool of claim 14 wherein said bent end is bent at about a 135° angle with said shaft.

16. The tool of claim 9 wherein said tool is made of silicone material.

* * * * *

40

45

50

55

60

65